

Claim 1 (currently amended). A ball retriever for a golf ball having a diameter, the retriever comprising a handle[,] and at least three consecutively spaced wires extending from said handle, said wires having outer ends respectively,

the space between adjacent pairs of said three consecutively spaced wires having an unexpanded distance less than the diameter of the golf ball, a cap, said cap integrally joining said outer ends of said wires so as to form a cradle ~~on one-side-thereof~~ for the retriever,

and said adjacent pairs of wires being flexible so as to allow the expansion of said distance therebetween to be at least equal to the diameter of the golf ball so as to allow the golf ball to pass therethrough into the cradle.

Claim 2 (original). The retriever of claim 1 characterized in that said retriever has six consecutive wires extending 360° in respect to the axis of the handle.

Claim 3 (original). The retriever of claim 2 characterized in that said six wires are equally spaced about the axis of the handle.

Claim 4 (original). The retriever of claim 1 characterized in that said distance extends along the longitudinal axis of the retriever to form a capture zone.

Claim 5 (original). The retriever of claim 4 characterized in that said distance is reduced in respect to the axis of said handle inwards and outwards of said capture zone.

Claim 6 (original). The retriever of claim 1 characterized in that said handle and said wires are separable from each other.

Claim 7 (original). The retriever of claim 1 characterized in that said handle is the shaft of a golf club.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The retriever of claim 1 characterized in that the golf ball has a diameter and said distance between said adjacent pairs of wires is from 80% to 95% of the diameter of the golf ball in their unexpanded cradle position.

Claim 9 (original). The retriever of claim 8 characterized in that there are six wires equally spaced 360° about the axis of said handle.

Claim 10 (original). The retriever of claim 9 characterized in that said wires join outside of said cradle.

Claim 11 (original). The retriever of claim 10 characterized in that said wires join inside of said cradle.

Claim 12 (currently amended). A ball retriever for a golf ball having a diameter, the retriever comprising a handle, at least six consecutively spaced wires, each of said six wires having an inner and an outer end extending radially outwardly from said handle,

a cap, said cap integrally joining said outer ends of said six consecutively spaced wires,

the space between any adjacent pair of said six consecutively spaced wires having an unexpanded distance less than the diameter of the golf ball,

and said adjacent pairs of wires being flexible so as to allow the expansion of said distance therebetween to be at least equal to the diameter of the golf ball so as to allow the golf ball to pass therethrough into the cradle.

Claim 13 (new). A ball retriever for a golf ball having a diameter, the retriever comprising a handle, said handle having a central axis, said central axis defining the central axis of the retriever,

at least six consecutively spaced wires, said consecutively spaced wires being connected to said handle substantially equally circumferentially spaced 360° about the center axis of the retriever, each of said six wires having outer ends respectively extending longitudinally displaced from said handle and substantially aligned with said central axis of the retriever,

a cap, said cap integrally joining said outer ends of said six consecutively spaced wires at said outer ends of said wires to prevent the radial displacement of said outer ends of said wires from said central axis of the retriever so as to form a cradle of said wires,

the space between any adjacent pair of said six consecutively spaced wires having an unexpanded distance less than the diameter of the golf ball,

and said adjacent pairs of wires being flexible so as to allow the expansion of said distance therebetween to be at least equal to the diameter of the golf ball so as to allow the golf ball to pass therethrough into the cradle.